

Applicant: K. Matsuyama et al.
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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the opportunity to talk with the Examiner regarding the outstanding office action as well as the Examiner's view of the cited art.

As was discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview, to further clarifying the claimed invention, Applicants are amending each of claims 1 and 5 herein so that it is clear that the sheet eject mechanism set forth in the claims is the mechanism that ejects processed sheets onto a tray or device on which is received the ejected sheets.

From the discussion with the Examiner, it appears that the term sheet eject mechanism is being broadly construed so as to be inclusive of any device that is in the sheet ejection pathway. This was so, notwithstanding that Applicants remarks as well as the disclosure of the subject application indicate that the sheet eject mechanism would not be inclusive of the tray on which the sheets are being received. Thus, to advance prosecution Applicants amended the claims so that the claim language clearly indicates that the processed sheets are ejected from the mechanism so as to be received on a receiving tray/ device. Such amendments, also are consistent with the remarks put forth in Applicants' Response to the Final Office Action dated May 12, 2005.

As the foregoing amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed disclosure, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider the within claim amendments in combination with the remarks of Applicants' Response dated May 12, 2005 and

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reflect such consideration of the claim amendments and remarks in the next official communication from the USPTO.

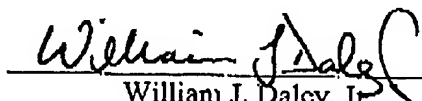
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwards & Angell, LLP

Date: May 31, 2005

By:



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